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THOMAS I. STARR
Editor, *The Michigan Bell*

April 2, 1941

TELEPHONE CHERRY 9900

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
R. F. D. #1,
Bethel, Connecticut

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Your lovely letter of March 10, left me somewhat chagrined--chagrined and embarrassed that you were so treated in Royal Oak. If the chairman scolded you publicly then I can truthfully tell you that it made no impression and left no recollection in the minds of at least two in your audience. I speak for Mrs. Starr and myself. Said Mrs. Starr, when I showed her your letter: "I don't remember anything about that. I remember her as a stately lady who gave a most interesting talk. I don't recall that she talked long." In this instance (and in most others) I agree fully with my wife.

Mrs. Starr and I attended seven of the ten Lincoln dinners given in Royal Oak (both of us took part in the music in several of them) and at the moment I can recall only two of the speakers during those years: you and Dr. Edgar DeWitt Jones.

Your letter did not quite reach us in time to be read at the Detroit Lincoln Group's second birthday party. But it will be read carefully, slowly, and IN FULL at the next meeting, on April 11. There will be no editing. It needs none. To try to edit it would be to spoil it; and the same, I am certain, would have been true of your Royal Oak address.

As you were responsible for my becoming interested in Lincoln, so too you are responsible for the book, soon to be published, in which I have had a part. Without the interest which you stimulated in me, together with the fact that, as you say in your letter, "Anyone who really takes up seriously the study of his (Lincoln's) life is never willing to lay it down," is the cause for the writing of this book by myself.

Under separate cover, as soon as it comes off the press, there will go to you an inscribed copy, which I hope you will read and send along to Meadville with the rest of your fine library.

With all good wishes, I am

Most sincerely yours,

Thomas I. Starr

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